

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 12, lines 11-16 with the following:

--Figure 4 depicts yet another embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, an article 200 205 for use in a postal system includes both an identifier 210 and an addressee 220. The identifier 210 may be of any of the varieties previously described. The identifier 210 is preferably associated with one or more records in a database, such that other 15 information about the identifier may be retrieved, modified, and/or supplemented, such as the appropriate recipient of the article 200 205, or whether the identifier 210 is enabled.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 12, lines 18-23 with the following:

--The article 200 205 also includes an addressee 220 to indicate the intended recipient of the article 200 205, such as that typically used for mailing packages and letters through the mail. 20 This may consist of a name and a geographic location. In one alternative, the article 200 205 does not include an addressee 220. In such instance, the recipient information is stored in a database and may be retrieved by referencing the identifier 210 associated with the article 200 205.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 12, line 25 through page 13, line 3 with the following:

--Finally, the article 200 205 may include a field 230 for other information, such as the sender's identification, and return address. Thus, in one embodiment, the present invention provides an article 200 205 for use in a postal system with an identifier 210 indicated on the article 200 and an addressee 220

indicated on the article ~~200~~ 205. The identifier 210 may serve as pre-printed postage and may be included for use on articles such as postal return cards, inserts 30 in magazines, warranty cards, etc. The article ~~200~~ 205 may be virtually any tangible item that may be shipped through the mail. The identifier 210 is preferably associated with an electronic database such that it may be enabled or disabled. When this identifier 210 is enabled, it is then valid (millions, or more, of mailing cards with these characteristics can be printed without actually paying for postage or incurring postage fees). The association between the identifier 210 and the electronic database may be such that the database includes records indexed to identifiers within the postage. These identifiers 210 may include varying levels of uniqueness, in accordance with the particular use to which the identifier is intended.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, lines 5-17 with the following:

--While the invention has been described with reference to certain exemplary embodiments thereof, those skilled in the art may make various modifications to the described embodiments of the invention without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention. The terms and descriptions used herein are set forth by way of illustration only and not meant as limitations. In particular, although the present invention has been described by examples, a variety of devices would practice the ~~invent~~ concepts described herein. Although the invention has been described and disclosed in various terms and certain embodiments, the scope of the invention is not intended to be, nor should it be deemed to be, limited thereby and such other modifications or embodiments as may be suggested by the teachings herein are particularly reserved, especially as they fall within the breadth and scope 15 of the claims here appended. Those skilled in the art will recognize that these and other variations are possible within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the following claims and their equivalents.—